

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                   |                          |   |                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| APPLICANTS:       | Frank G. Belmonte et al. | ) | PATENT APPLICATION   |
|                   |                          | ) |                      |
|                   |                          | ) |                      |
| APPLICATION NO.:  | 10/713,660               | ) | Group Art Unit: 1625 |
| CONFIRMATION NO.: | 9847                     | ) |                      |
|                   |                          | ) |                      |
| FILED:            | November 14, 2003        | ) | Examiner:            |
|                   |                          | ) | Taylor V. Oh         |
|                   |                          | ) |                      |
| FOR:              | STAGED COUNTERCURRENT    | ) | Attorney Docket No.: |
|                   | OXIDATION                | ) | 37,481               |

Amendment in Response to Final Office Action Filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks in order to place the above-referenced case in a condition for allowance.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks and Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

ANY ADDITIONAL FEES REQUIRED  
CHARGE TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT  
NO. 01-0528